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NASHVILLE -- The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 has been successfully implemented in Tennessee, meeting the deadline of July 1, 2000, for the revamping of Tennessee's workforce system. The national legislation called for states to streamline the services provided to employers and job applicants through a one-stop delivery process, Gov. Don Sundquist announced today. The new delivery system in our state is the Tennessee Career Center System.

"Today is a historic occasion with a new delivery system where people and jobs connect," Governor Sundquist explained. "Thanks to the hard work and commitment of local and state partners there are 14 Career Centers open across the state. The new Local Workforce Investment Boards, which were required by the law, have been appointed by the local elected officials, and I have certified those members."

Michael E. Magill, commissioner of The Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development, commended all of the partners on the state and local level for coming together to develop the new system.

"Workforce development is the defining issue of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," Magill said. "The state that puts together the best workforce system is the state that will lead economically. We are building a system that will continue to evolve and be responsive to our customers' needs, which equates to economic success."

Magill thanked the Local Workforce Investment Board members for their leadership and the cooperative spirit of all the county executives in Workforce Investment Area 9, which includes Davidson, Rutherford, Trousdale, and Wilson counties. He praised all of the partners involved in implementing the Workforce Investment Act who have worked diligently to make the system come together. He praised the private sector for their

involvement and encouraged employers to stay involved to help develop a system that keeps pace with the changing demands of the workplace.

“As we look to the future we know there is much work to be done as the system continues to evolve and grow. The local departments of Labor & Workforce Development, Human Services and Education, WIA staff and other agency personnel will continue to co-locate to provide a single point of delivery for services. The 14 centers will serve as anchors for the local Career Center System with other Labor & Workforce Development offices across the state being a part of the system.”

According to Magill, Tennessee received a \$9.5 million dollar planning and implementation grant in July 1997 from the U.S. Department of Labor to establish the Career Centers. The centers are operating successfully, assisting employers in staff recruitment for new and existing companies; upgrading applicant skills through training; and moving individuals into jobs with career opportunities.

On June 17, 1999, Governor Sundquist signed the Tennessee Workforce Development Act, which brought together the major workforce functions into one agency and fulfilled the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998 requirement to streamline employment and training activities. Over the last six months, partner agencies and local entities have been working together to implement the WIA.

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**NOTE:** Media coverage is invited.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities

El Departamento del Trabajo y Desarrollo de la Fuerza Laboral de Tennessee (Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development) es un patrono que ofrece igualdad de empleo. Ayudas auxiliares están disponibles para individuos con impedimentos.

## **TENNESEE CAREER CENTER ADDRESSES**

### **LWIA 1**

Northeast Tennessee Career Center  
2515 Wesley Street  
Johnson City, TN 37601  
(423)610-0222

### **LWIA 2**

Five Rivers Regional Career Center  
Alpa Square  
6057 West Andrew Johnson Hwy.  
Morristown, TN 37816  
(This center will open temporarily  
at Walters State Community College  
(423)585-2607)

### **LWIA 3**

Knoxville Area Career Center  
3929 Western Avenue  
Knoxville, TN 37921  
(865)522-8322

### **LWIA 4**

Tennessee River Valley Career Center  
60 Ridley Street  
Crossville, TN 38555  
(931)484-7456

### **LWIA 5**

Southeast Career Center  
Eastgate Town Center  
5600 Brainerd Road, Suite B-18  
Chattanooga, TN 37411  
(423)894-5354

Athens Area Career Center  
Parkway Plaza  
Hwy. 11 North, #899,901,905  
Athens, TN 37303 (423)745-2028

### **LWIA 6**

Mid-South Career Center  
111 East Lincoln Street  
Tullahoma, TN 37388-0998  
(931)454-1905

### **LWIA 7**

Upper Cumberland Career Center  
3300 Williams Enterprise Drive  
Cookeville, TN 38506  
(This center will open  
temporarily at 263 West Spring Street,  
Cookeville, 38501-3268, 931-526-9701)

### **LWIA 8**

Clarksville-Montgomery County Career Center  
Veterans Plaza  
350 Pageant Lane, Suite 406  
Clarksville, TN 37041  
(931)648-5530

### **LWIA 9**

Middle Tennessee Career Center  
MetroCenter, 621 Mainstream Drive, Suite 210  
Nashville, TN 37228  
(615)862-8890

### **LWIA 10**

South Central Tennessee Career Center  
119 Nashville Highway  
Northway Shopping Center, Suite 106  
Columbia, TN 38402  
(931)490-3800

### **LWIA 11**

West Tennessee Career Center  
416 E. Lafayette Street  
Jackson, TN 38302-0758  
(901)423-5860

### **LWIA 12**

Northwest Career Center  
439 McGaughey Street  
Dyersburg, TN 38024-0565  
(901)286-8300

### **LWIA 13**

Memphis Area Career Center  
444 North Main Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Memphis Area Transit Authority Terminal  
Memphis, TN 38103  
(901) 545-2240